

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below. Inserted text is underlined, and deleted text is either struck through or shown in double enclosing brackets. Applicants aver that no new matter has been added and that all claimed elements are supported by Applicants' specification.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating sharing of a multimedia object file by a device, the method comprising:

using the device to perform ~~at least a portion of one or more~~ of the following acts;

sharing the multimedia object file with other devices;

computing a fingerprint for least a portion of the multimedia object file to obtain an identifier for the multimedia object file;

registering usage information for the shared multimedia object file ~~upon sharing the multimedia object file using the identifier;~~

transmitting the registered usage information from the device to a billing server to bill ~~allow billing of~~ a user ~~[[of]] account associated with the device for an~~ by a first amount in accordance with the registered usage information for the multimedia object file;

recording user profile information for the user, the user profile information including browsing behavior of the user to identify a multimedia interest of the user; and

transmitting the recorded user profile information from the device to the billing server to allow crediting of a bill for the credit the user account by a second amount with a sum, upon receipt of the recorded user profile information together with the registered usage information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A device arranged ~~for sharing of~~ to share a multimedia object file, the device comprising:

file sharing means for sharing the multimedia object file with other devices;
identifying means for obtaining an identifier for the shared multimedia object file, the identifying means comprising a fingerprint calculator to obtain the identifier by computing a fingerprint for at least a portion of the multimedia object file;

accounting means for registering usage information for the identified multimedia object file;

reporting means for transmitting the registered usage information to a third party, when the registered usage information meets a predetermined criterion, to ~~allow afterwards, billing for sharing of the multimedia object file~~ bill a user account in accordance with the registered usage information for the multimedia object file, wherein the device is to inhibit sharing of the multimedia object file in response to the reporting means failing to transmit the registered usage information to the third party; and

user profile maintenance means for maintaining user profile information including browsing behavior of [[the]] a user to identify a multimedia interest of the user.

4.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, in which the usage information being registered for the multimedia object file comprises a number of times the multimedia object file is being shared.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, in which the usage information being registered for the multimedia object file comprises an indication of duration of media content associated with the multimedia object file.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, in which the predetermined criterion comprises a predetermined number of times the multimedia object file has been shared.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, wherein the reporting means is to transmit at least a portion of the user profile to the third party.

12.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A device configured to share a multimedia object file, the device comprising:

a file sharing module configured to share the multimedia object file with other devices;

a fingerprinting module including a fingerprint calculator configured to obtain an identifier for the multimedia object file by computing a fingerprint for at least a portion of the multimedia object file, the fingerprinting module being implemented using a processor;

an accounting module configured to register usage information for the multimedia object file, based on the identifier;

a reporting module configured to transmit registered usage information to a third party based on the registered usage information meeting a predetermined criterion to allow billing for sharing [[of]] the multimedia object file in accordance with the registered usage information, the device configured to inhibit sharing of the multimedia object file in response to the reporting means failing to transmit the registered usage information to the third party; and

a user profile maintenance module configured to maintain user profile information including browsing behavior of [[the]] a user to identify a multimedia interest of the user.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the registered usage information includes a number of times the multimedia object file has been shared.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the registered usage information includes an indication of duration of media content associated with the multimedia object file.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the predetermined criterion includes a predetermined number of times the multimedia object file has been shared.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the usage information for the multimedia object file comprises a number of times the multimedia object file is shared.

19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the usage information for the multimedia object file comprises a duration of media content associated with the multimedia object file.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined criterion comprises a predetermined number of times the multimedia object file is shared.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting at least a portion of the user profile to the third party.